



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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18 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The military directorate met in Saigon today to discuss preparations for elections and to review the problems in the I Corps area. The members seemed to agree that the situation in I Corps was worsening and the majority spoke in favor of taking "firm action" to restore Saigon's authority there. Ky was equivocal, however, and no decisions were reached.

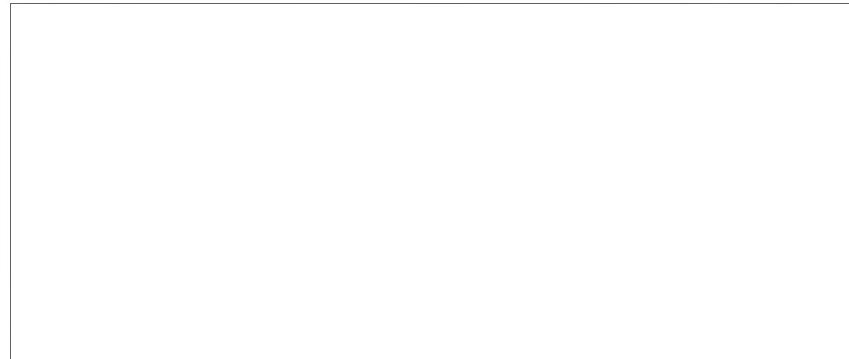
Tri Quang spoke to Buddhist groups both in Hué and Da Nang today. In Hué, he advised a group of about 5,000 to cease their demonstrations and live with the Ky government until elections for a constituent assembly are held. He also announced that he would stay in I Corps until the assembly is established.

Tri Quang apparently repeated this line in a speech later in the day at Da Nang.

There has been no decisive response yet by antigovernment elements in I Corps to these appeals. The struggle group in Hué has somewhat toned down its radio commentaries, but there have been no changes noted in Da Nang. A meeting of struggle group representatives was scheduled for tonight in Hué to discuss "important problems."

2. France

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3. Dominican Republic

Juan Bosch collected endorsements over the weekend from two smaller parties. He now has or is likely to receive support for his presidential candidacy from the entire spectrum that backed the "constitutionalist" cause during last year's civil war.

The extremist-led 14th of June Group, however, conditioned its endorsement of Bosch in terms which will be very difficult for him to accept. It insists, for instance, that Bosch repudiate all dealings with any agencies of the US Government.

The coalescence of leftist parties around Bosch has increased pressures for a union between Balaguer's middle of the road and Bonnelly's conservative forces. A union agreement between these two would be very hard, though not impossible, to come by.

4. Brazil

It is now all but certain that War Minister Costa e Silva will be the government's candidate to succeed President Castello Branco. The nominating convention is set for next month.

Castello Branco might have preferred a successor with more political experience, but Costa e Silva seems to meet most other requirements. Castello Branco has thus far avoided giving Costa e Silva his personal endorsement, but he has promised to back any candidate nominated by the progovernment party.

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5. Pakistan

As expected, the welcome Liu Shao-chi got in East Pakistan last weekend was unimpressive compared to that given him in West Pakistan a few weeks earlier. The Chinese are still finding it profitable, however, to picture themselves as Pakistan's only reliable ally.

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6. Guinea

A Guinean delegation in Moscow recently brought back some sobering thoughts which have caused Touré's advisers to counsel a more restrained course. Soviet officials are said to have told the Guineans that Conakry can expect no help from Moscow if Touré's policies should provoke an attack from the Ivory Coast or a French-backed coup.

In recent days almost all Touré's close advisers have been forcefully urging him to back down from the extreme positions he took after the coup in Ghana. He is stubborn, but he may be softening a little. Special missions are being sent out to several African countries in an attempt to head off the isolation of Guinea.

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